

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 RSR-01 /047 W

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R 270800 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 973

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0935

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US SO

SUBJ: US- SOMALI RELATIONS

1. AT AIRPORT CEREMONY FOR NIMEIRI' S DEPARTURE, SIAD ASKED ME TO COME AND SEE HIM RIGHT AFTERWARDS. THIS I DID, WHICH CONSTITUTED MY FAREWELL CALL ON HIM. WE HAD OVER TWO- HOUR LONG, RELAXED, AND FRIENDLY TALK RANGING OVER VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. HE SEEMED TIRED, BUT WAS STILL AS GARRULOUS AS EVER.

2. SIAD FIRST MADE VERY FLATTERING REMARKS ABOUT MY SERVICE IN SOMALIA AND SAID HE DID NOT AT ALL LIKE IDEA OF MY DEPARTURE. NOR HAD LEADING MEMBERS OF SRC. IT WAS MUCH TOO SOON. HE WONDERED WHAT " INFLUENCE" WAS BEHIND MOVE? HE HAD GIVEN SOME THOUGHT TO HAVING SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU INTERVENE WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM TO TRY GET IT CANCELLED. WHAT WAS MY NEXT ASSIGNMENT?

3. I DID MY BEST TO EXPLAIN THAT TRANSFER WAS ROUTINE. I SAID I WAS PERSONALLY DISAPPOINTED AT HAVING TO LEAVE BEFORE RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED MUCH MORE. PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE, I THOUGHT, BUT NOT ENOUGH. NEVERTHELESS, THINGS WERE LOOKING UP AND I WAS CONVINCED THEY WOULD CONTINUE THAT WAY. MY SUCCESSOR WAS VERY WELL QUALIFIED FOR THE JOB AND WOULD KEEP THINGS MOVING FORWARD WITH HIS (SIAD' S) HELP.

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RM IT ALL DEPENDED, SIAD RESPONDED, ON MY SUCCESSOR' ATTITUDE. WOULD HE HAVE AN OPEN MIND OR WOULD HE BE BOTHERED BY LABELS SUCH AS " SOCIALISM?" I ASSURED THE PRESIDENT HE WOULD NOT.

5. I TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS MY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR ALL THAT SOMALI POLICE HAD DONE DURING BLACK SEPTEMBER THREAT. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS HOW GRAVE IT HAD BEEN BUT WE HAD RECEIVED INDICATIONS BOTH DURING AND SINCE THAT IT PROBABLY HAD BEEN PRETTY SERIOUS. IT WAS THUS PROBABLY THANKS TO SOMALI POLICE'S ACTION THAT INCIDENT HAD BEEN AVERTED. SIAD REPLIED THAT SOMALIA WOULD NOT PUT UP WITH ANYTHING OF THIS NATURE AND HAD SO WARNED THE AL FATAH LOCAL DIRECTOR. I POINTED OUT THAT LOCAL DIRECTOR HAD GOOD REPUTATION BUT HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO COMPLY WITH ORDERS. HE WOULD PROBABLY GET OUT BEFORE ANY OPERATION UNDERTAKEN. SIAD TENDED TO AGREE.

6. I TOLD PRESIDENT I HAD REFRAINED FROM PUSHING UNDULY HARD FOR US NAVAL VISITS TO SOMALIA OR FOR VISITS OF SOMALI LEADERS TO USA. I HAD SENSED FROM MY CONTACTS WITH HIS AUTHORITIES THAT BOTH WERE STILL PREMATURE. SIAD REPLIED, " IF YOU GET ASSIGNED TO WASHINGTON, THEN I MIGHT SEND SOME

OF MY PEOPLE TO VISIT US." (NOTHING ON NAVAL VISITS.)

7. SIAD WENT ON TO SAY HE HAD ENORMOUS ADMIRATION FOR PRE-SIDENT NIXON. WHETHER IT HAD BEEN HIS VISITS TO CHINA, SOVIET UNION OR EVEN DEVALUATION OF DOLLAR, NIXON HAD SHOWN GREAT IMAGINATION AND COURAGE. BREZHNEV- NIXON MEETING WAS SIMILARLY ALL TO THE GOOD. SIAD HOPED WATERGATE MESS WOULD NOT DETER NIXON FROM HIS COURSE. THE AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE WITH WHOM HE HAD SPOKEN AT ADDIS ALL FELT SAME WAY ABOUT NIXON.

8. SIAD CONCLUDED BY URGING A SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE ON PART USG TOWARD SOMALI EXPERIMENT AND ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LOT OF SOMALI PEOPLE. WE PARTED ON FRIENDLIEST TERMS.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOGADI00935
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MOGADISHU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730632/aaaajsmu.tel
Line Count: 102
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Feb-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980304
Subject: US- SOMALI RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, SO, US, n/a
To: AF
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005